

CAPSULE SUMMARY

Hugg-Thomas Wildlife Management Area

MIHP # HO-790

Sykesville

Howard and Carroll Counties, Maryland

WMA=1946

Public

Hugg-Thomas Wildlife Management Area (WMA) encompasses approximately 274 acres, 268 acres in Howard County and 6 acres in Carroll County. Hugg-Thomas WMA was donated to the State of Maryland under a bequest in the will of William Thomas in 1946. The Game and Inland Fish Commission accepted the property as a game refuge.

WMAs are administered by the Wildlife and Heritage Service. The management objectives are focused on wildlife enhancement activities and low intensity wildlife-related recreation, such as hunting, fishing, and wildlife observation. In general, no public recreation, support buildings and structures, paved trails, or developed picnic areas are constructed within WMAs.

A reconnaissance survey of the built resources located on the property completed in June 2003 identified three buildings constructed prior to 1960 on the property: the refuge caretaker's house constructed in 1949, the barn constructed ca. 1930 and renovated in 1949-1950, and a ca. 1930 corncrib. No recorded archeological sites are identified in the Maryland Historical Trust archeological site files on this property and none were evaluated under the scope of this project.

Hugg-Thomas WMA does not possess those qualities of significance and integrity necessary for consideration applying National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.4[a-d]) and the criteria for the Maryland Register of Historic Properties (Annotated Code of Maryland 83B, Title 5). The landscape of Hugg-Thomas WMA is primarily hardwood forest. The signatures of historic land use and occupation have been minimized through reforestation. A small percentage of the acreage (approximately 25 acres) is planted as wildlife food plots, which were established during the late 1940s. The property does not contain a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development. The three buildings constructed prior to 1960 at Hugg-Thomas WMA are functional in design and do not exhibit the qualities of architectural significance for their types, periods, or methods of construction; for high artistic value; or, for association with the work of modern masters (Criterion C).

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Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-790

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Hugg-Thomas Wildlife Management Area
other

2. Location

street and number Forsythe Road not for publication
city, town Sykesville vicinity
county Howard, Carroll

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Maryland Department of Natural Resources
street and number 580 Taylor Avenue, E-3 telephone 410-260-8451
city, town Annapolis state MD zip code 21401

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Courthouse tax map and parcel:
city, town Ellicott City liber folio

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
☐ Other

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			0

7. Description

Inventory No. HO-790

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Hugg-Thomas Wildlife Management Area (WMA) contains approximately 274 acres located south of Sykesville, Maryland. Six acres are located in Carroll County and 268 acres are located in Howard County (Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MdDNR) 2002). Forsythe Road, a county road, bisects the WMA from the northeast to the southwest. The South Branch of the Patapsco River forms the northern boundary of the WMA. A portion of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad corridor passes through the north of the park near the river.

The topography in the WMA is hilly with upland areas rising to approximately 560 feet above mean sea level. The primary habitat is hardwood forest and comprises approximately 251 acres of well-drained uplands south of the Patapsco River. Undergrowth was observed to be heavy in areas. Approximately 25.5 acres provide upland/agricultural habitat. Some mowed open fields from previous agricultural use and maintained woodland trails that appear to be remnants of logging or farm road systems are evident. The area around the Refuge Caretaker's House is maintained, mowed, landscaped and surrounded by woods. Eight acres provide wetland habitat. This habitat includes the banks of the South Branch of the Patapsco River and two ponds located in the southeastern area of the WMA (Norris 1997).

Hugg-Thomas WMA contains three buildings located near the approximate center of the WMA south of Forsythe Road. The buildings are a house, a barn with a pole barn addition that now serves as a shop, and a corncrib. In addition, the area near these buildings contains several foundations, including a former springhouse that was removed during the early 1970s. A complex of ruins is located on the north side of Forsythe Road north of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church. These ruins have not been recorded in the archeological site files of the Maryland Historical Trust. Saint Barnabas Episcopal Church (MIHP # HO-124) is located just outside the boundaries of the WMA.

HISTORIC RUINS

The reported Hugg Manor site is an unrecorded archeological site. This area is located north of Forsythe Road and across the road from St. Barnabas Episcopal Church. The ruins appear to date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. No buildings were depicted in this location on the 1862 Martenet's Map of Carroll County or on a 1944 7.5 minute Sykesville USGS quadrangle map. Cramm (1987:96) identified the Hugg mansion as standing between ca.1884 and 1933, when it burned. The collection of ruins has several visible, aboveground components, including stone foundation ruins, driveway traces, domestic debris piles, an abandoned well, and a standing windmill. The surrounding landscape is pitted, disturbed, and crossed by traces of active driveways and paths.

The complex has reforested with a moderate hardwood forest and undergrowth. The site is accessible by a mowed forest trail that is wide enough for vehicular access. The condition of the site is poor. Domestic refuse dumping has been heavy since ca. 1970. The slope above the site is eroding and burying the site under slopewash. The upland windmill and well component are deteriorating. Metal elements are rusted, wood is rotting, and stone mortar joints are eroding and failing. It also appears that stone may have been robbed from existing foundations.

DOMESTIC

The Refuge Caretaker's House, constructed in 1949 (MdDNR Annual Report 1950:47), is located on the south side of Forsythe Road approximately in the center of the WMA. The refuge caretaker's house replaced a former tenant house located in this area. This single-story, three-bay by two-bay residence faces southwest and rests on a concrete-block foundation. Former wood shiplap siding is now clad in vinyl. The gable roof is sheathed with composition roll roofing. The building has two chimneys. An interior brick chimney is located off-center on the rear roof plane. An exterior, concrete-block chimney is located on the southeast gable

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end. The cornice is boxed. The windows are one-over-one-light, vinyl-sash units with slip sills. The windows were installed in 1992 (MdDNR DMI 2002). The door is a centered, wood, four-light unit. A gable roof hood covers a pressure-treated wood, centrally-located, front porch. This porch is supported by four-by-four supports. A rear porch has been recently added to this structure. This porch spans two-thirds of the rear elevation and is accessed by a door that is similar to the unit on the front elevation. The house is in good condition because of continuous maintenance and installation of modern materials and modern components. However, the house retains little integrity to its 1949 appearance. Paint is peeling off of the foundation block, and the wooden elements of the porches exhibit minor deterioration.

A post-1960 brick grill is located in the fenced-in rear yard, and laundry line posts are located in the right side yard. The yards are mowed and well kept. The view from the yard overlooks the farm pond and farm outbuildings.

The Well Foundation is a rectangular, nearly subterranean foundation that is located southwest and downslope from the house. This structure has a concrete-block shaft and concrete slab cap. Parallel stone walls extend southwest from the block and slab area. These walls delineate the passage to the inoperative pump located under the cap and in the shaft within the block walls. This structure is in fair condition. The block and slab are mildewed and cracked while the stone walls reveal cracked and crumbling mortar.

The Springhouse Foundation is a rectangular stone, concrete block and concrete wall foundation that faces northeast and feeds water into a sizeable farm pond. This structure and the pond are sited southwest of the house and well foundation. Water flows into the springhouse via a PVC pipe and exits the ruin via an exit corridor on the ground surface. This corridor leads to the pond. Three concrete steps descend into the interior. A pressure-treated wood footbridge traverses the exit corridor. This structure is in poor condition. The walls of this construction are collapsing. Concrete and stone wall mortar joints are cracked. The area within and around the foundation is lush, wet, and weedy. A pressure-treated wood fence surrounds the ruin. This fence is beginning to mildew.

A Long Wall is located south of the house and southeast of the pond and Forsythe Road. The purpose of this wall is unknown. This uncoursed, rubble stone wall rises four feet on the southwest end to six feet on the northeast end. The wall is thickest closest to the ground surface. Mortar has been recently applied to the joints and has not been struck. The ends of the wall are finished and exhibit no evidence of adjoining walls that formed the corner of a foundation. Two voids are located in the area closest to the ground surface. These appear to have once supported wooden beams. Pipes extend from the thick, lower section on the northeast end. The quality of the stonework in this wall does not appear to be the same age as the other stone structural components found in this complex. The condition of this wall is fair. Small mortar cracks were noted. The wall hosts moss and light overgrowth. Dense woods are located to the southeast of this wall, and additional structural components were not visible due to heavy undergrowth behind the wall.

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE

The Shop/Pole barn and the corncrib are two built resources associated with the early twentieth-century tenant farm that operated on the property prior to acquisition by MdDNR. The Shop/Pole barn, constructed ca. 1930 and renovated ca. 1950, is located south of the refuge caretaker's house. The shop/pole barn is oriented to face southwest. The foundation and lower wall are constructed of stone foundation that might be from an older bank barn. The upper portion of the building is wood-frame clad with board-and-batten siding that is the height of approximately one-half story. The gable roof is sheathed with new asphalt/fiberglass shingles and the cornice is finished in aluminum. The bank elevation, which is in the gable end, has two centrally-located, wood, swinging doors. The rear elevation has two, centrally located doors on the second floor, as well as two doors on the ground level. Windows are wood-frame, nine-light units that appear to be fixed. A pole barn addition, constructed ca. 1950, extends from the

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southeast side of the barn. This single-story addition is set into the bank and is only accessible from the rear, downslope area. Two stone walls and two bays of poles support the shed, standing-seam metal roof. This barn is in fair condition. Exterior paint failure was noted. Insects are infesting the upper levels. The rain gutters are sagging. The mortar in the stone walls is eroding. Dry rot is affecting wooden structural members and mold was visible on some areas of siding. This building is not an example of a bank barn typically found on farm complexes. The overall massing of the building is much lower and the banked access is not located in the typical side elevation. The overall appearance of the building suggests that the upper portion of the building was built on an older foundation and that the orientation of the building was changed. The building has no integrity to illustrate a bank barn type under National Register Criterion C.

The Corncrib, constructed ca. 1930, is located southeast of the shop/pole barn and faces the northwest. The wood-frame corncrib rests on a stone-pier foundation. The areas between the piers have been planked in with board-and-batten siding. Hewn log sills rest upon the piers. The exterior cladding is narrow vertical wood strips that are not flush. The gable roof is steeply sloping and is sheathed with corrugated metal. The eave features a plain fascia. Single centered wood doors are located in the front gable end and in the northeast elevation door. Sets of wood hatches allow material loading access into the crib. The condition of this corncrib is fair. Paint failure was noted on the building. Rusted door hinges and failing planking were noted surrounding the exterior. The roof was rusted in spots. The mortar in the piers was eroding.

Table of Resources at Hugg-Thomas WMA

MIHP/Site #	SITENO (or DML#)	MHT Name	Other Names	County	Quad	Property Category	Property Sub-Category	Property ID	Date of Resource	Condition	Condition Assessment Details	Resource Count	Notes	MHT Concurrence
004			Corn Crib/Storage	Howard	Sykesville	Agriculture/Subsistence	Storage	corncrib	ca. 1930	Fair	Paint failure on wood elements. Rusted door hinges. Deterioration of wood cladding. Rusting roof. Mortar in piers eroding.	building-1		
001			Refuge Caretaker's House	Howard	Sykesville	Domestic	Single Dwelling	residence-in-kind	1949	Good	Peeling paint from concrete-block foundation. Minor deterioration of wood porch elements.	building-1		
002			Shop/Pole Barn	Howard	Sykesville	Agriculture/Subsistence	Storage	barn/shop	ca. 1930; 1950	Fair	Exterior paint failure. Rain gutters sagging. Insect infestation. Mold on side elevation. Deterioration of wood structural members.	building-1		
			Hugg Manor Ruins	Howard	Sykesville	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	ca. 1884, burned 1933	Unknown	N/A	site-1		

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8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates 1946 Architect/Builder N/A

Construction dates 1949

Evaluation for:

☒ National Register ☒ Maryland Register ☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

SUMMARY

Hugg-Thomas Wildlife Management Area (WMA) encompasses approximately 274 acres located south of Sykesville, Maryland. Six acres are located in Carroll County and 268 acres are located in Howard County (Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MdDNR) 2002). Hugg-Thomas WMA was donated to the State of Maryland under a bequest in the will of William Thomas in 1946. The Game and Inland Fish Commission accepted the property as a game refuge.

WMAs are administered by the Wildlife and Heritage Service, a separate department from the State Forest and Park Service, which administers Maryland state parks. The Wildlife and Heritage Service management objectives focus on wildlife enhancement activities and low intensity wildlife-related recreation, such as hunting, fishing, and wildlife observation. Generally, intensive development of WMAs is restricted. No public recreation, support buildings and structures, paved trails, or developed picnic areas are constructed within WMAs.

The purpose of this Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) form is to evaluate Hugg-Thomas WMA as a potential historic district and to assess each MdDNR-owned built resource constructed prior to 1960 applying the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and applicable Criterion Considerations (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]) and the criteria for the Maryland Register of Historic Properties (Annotated Code of Maryland 83B, Title 5). A reconnaissance survey of the built resources located on the property was completed in June 2003. Three buildings constructed prior to 1960 were identified on the property. The refuge caretaker's house was constructed in 1949 by the State of Maryland. The barn was constructed ca. 1930 and renovated in 1949-1950 through the addition of a pole barn. A corncrib was constructed ca. 1930. No recorded archeological sites are identified in the Maryland Historical Trust archeological site files on this property. No archeological sites were evaluated as part of this investigation.

Hugg-Thomas WMA does not possess those qualities of significance and integrity necessary for consideration applying National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.4[a-d]) and the criteria for the Maryland Register of Historic Properties (Annotated Code of Maryland 83B, Title 5). The landscape of Hugg-Thomas WMA is primarily hardwood forest. The signatures of historic land use and occupation have been minimized through reforestation. A small percentage of the acreage (approximately 25 acres) is planted as wildlife food plots, which were established after MdDNR acquired the property in 1946. The property does not contain a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development. The three buildings constructed prior to 1960 at Hugg-Thomas WMA are functional in design and do not exhibit the qualities of architectural significance for their types, periods, or methods of construction; for high artistic value; or, for association with the work of modern masters (Criterion C), nor are they associated with the broad patterns of history (Criterion A), nor with significant persons (Criterion B).

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RESOURCE HISTORY AND CONTEXT

The land destined to become the Hugg-Thomas Wildlife Management Area (WMA) was formerly associated with the family of Jacob Washington Hugg, Sr. (b. 1800-d. 1869). Jacob Hugg was in the shipping business in Baltimore. By 1821, he was shipmaster. He became a ship outfitter and operated an import/export business that traded commodities with South America, specifically the port of Rio de Janeiro, and with the Orient. He acquired a sizeable fortune and built a large residence on Eutaw Street in Baltimore City. Jacob Hugg married in 1827 and had seven children, including Maggie V. Hugg (b. 1842-d. 1908) (MHS 2003). In 1877, the Hugg family acquired land in Howard County for the location of a summer house and as an income-producing tenant farm (Cramm 1987:96). The property was easily accessible to Baltimore by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad that stopped at Sykesville. The Howard County property descended to Maggie V. Hugg, since none of her siblings married and Maggie was the longest-lived. When Maggie V. Hugg died in 1908, she left the bulk of her fortune and property to her personal lawyer, William S. Thomas (b. 1869- d. 1947), a prominent Baltimore attorney (MHS 2003). Thomas managed the Howard County property through the Maggie V. Hugg Memorial Fund until February 1936, when he purchased the property outright for "the sum of five dollars and other valuable considerations in hand paid" (MdDNR 1936). The Hugg manor house burned in 1933 (Cramm 1987:96).

Historically the land was used for agriculture and industry. Sykesville, located just north of the property, was established in 1825, when John Sykes, a wealthy Baltimore merchant, purchased 1,000 acres in the area. When the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad wound its way through the South Branch of the Patapsco in 1831, Sykesville became a station and the center of a small group of mills. The surrounding area was used for agriculture. John Sykes built a large stone hotel in Sykesville to attract Baltimore families to the country. The 1862 Martenet Map of Carroll County depicted several mills owned by Schulz and Prescourt along the Howard County side of the South Branch of the Patapsco and the house of Mrs. Sykes. No buildings were depicted on the 1862 map as located in the Hugg-Thomas WMA. By 1880, Sykesville had a population of over 400 and many houses, stores, and mills (Martenet 1862; Scharf 1882).

In 1946, William Thomas directed in his last will and testament that "I give and devise to the State of Maryland the farm I own in Howard and Carroll Counties, in the State of Maryland, on the condition that the same shall be used for Park Purposes, or for the game division of the conservation Department, and to be known as the "THOMAS AND HUGG PARK..." (Thomas 1946). The farm comprised 275.919 acres at the time it was conveyed to the Department of Game and Inland Fish. The property was accepted by the state as a game refuge, a wildlife demonstration area, and a work center for the farm game program in Carroll and Howard counties (MdDNR Annual Report 1949:170).

In 1949, at the request of Maryland Game and Inland Fish Commission and the Vestrymen of St. Barnabas Protestant Episcopal Church, the land was re-surveyed in preparation for land transfer (Kooler 1946). In July 1950, 1.7525 acres were sold to the Vestry of the Parish of the Holy Trinity; another 0.351 acres was transferred to St. Barnabas Episcopal Church (MIHP # HO-124) in September 1964 (MdDNR 1982a).

Hugg-Thomas WMA was developed for wildlife propagation through habitat enhancements that were implemented during the first years following its acquisition. These measures included planting evergreen trees, and hedges and field borders of perennial shrubs, and cultivating a substantial number of food patches of annual grasses and legumes. Approximately 30 acres was leased to a local farmer who planted crops and managed the area as a farm game demonstration area to support upland game species. This area was farmed to keep the acreage open. During 1949-1950, a caretaker's house was constructed on the property and the barn was renovated (MdDNR Annual Reports 1950:47).

The development of this area was funded through the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program. White pine, Scotch pine, and Norway spruce seedlings were planted on the steeper areas in groups and strips. The woodland border plantings and hedges were

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planted following contour strip edges. In the early years following the acquisition of the property, much of the open land that was once farmed had developed a cover of weeds, grasses, shrubs, and trees that provided good cover and a fair amount of natural food for game. The 30 acres of the Hugg-Thomas property maintained by a tenant farmer were considered to be a sound model of soil and wildlife conservation practices (Annual Report 1951:39; 1952:57).

In August 1960, an agreement was signed between the Game and Inland Fish Commission and the Sykesville Fish and Game Club to construct picnic, playground, and sanitary facilities on approximately 12 acres of land within the Hugg-Thomas WMA called the Thomas and Hugg Park. The management of these facilities was the responsibility of the Sykesville Fish and Game Club in conjunction with the Hugg-Thomas WMA's caretaker. The caretaker acted as the agent for the commission in the enforcement of state game and fish laws and rules and regulations agreed upon for the management of the park. In 1965, the management of the 12-acre section was administered by the Sykesville Lions Club in conjunction with the town of Sykesville (MdDNR 1960, 1964, 1965). The lease did not continue beyond ca. 1970. No permanent sanitary facilities are located on the property.

In 1968, a farm pond was constructed to increase the water capacity of the WMA, as well as to provide habitat for fresh water aquatic animal life. Prior to 1973, vandalism was a problem at Hugg-Thomas WMA due, in part, to the resident caretaker's declining health. In 1976, a new resident caretaker moved to the property and occupied the caretaker's house in exchange for patrolling the WMA, calling the police when necessary, and answering questions from the public during off hours and on weekends. This led to a dramatic decrease in the number of incidences of vandalism. In 1990, a new caretaker moved onto the premises and assumed the same responsibilities (MdDNR 1976a, 1976b, 1989a, 1982c, 1990).

Hugg-Thomas WMA has been open to public hunting since the early 1970s. It was a popular destination due to its close proximity to Baltimore and Washington, D.C. The heavy usage resulted in complaints from neighboring landowners. Management objectives were altered during the 1975-1976 hunting season to decrease the hunter density. Decreased numbers of hunters were found acceptable to neighboring landowners and hunters alike (Bourgeois 1977).

In 1978, a Memorandum of Agreement between the Maryland Wildlife Administration and the Maryland Forest Service was signed to develop a wildlife-forestry demonstration area with long range plans to include an interpretive center and a network of self-guided nature trails. The overall concept was to demonstrate the manipulation of the vegetative community for wildlife, wood fiber, watershed values, recreation, and aesthetics (MdDNR 1977). As part of this program, the University of Maryland analyzed soil samples from three fields at Hugg-Thomas WMA and made recommendations regarding the type and amount of fertilizers to be used on the wildlife plots planted to benefit the wildlife of the management area (Soil Testing Laboratory 1978).

In 1978, a proposal was submitted to the Maryland Wildlife Administration to connect the Hugg-Thomas WMA to Pataspc Valley State Park. The Maryland Wildlife Administration declined the proposal (MdDNR 1978b).

During the early 1980s, a number of occasions were reported when neighboring farmers utilized Hugg-Thomas WMA's water resources without permission. In one instance, a spring on Hugg-Thomas property was fenced. The State took action to address these situations and sought solutions that were amenable to all parties (MdDNR 1982b, 1983, 1984).

The redevelopment of Sykesville during the late 1980s led to a proposed land swap in 1989 with a Mr. Tisano and is indicative of the increasing suburbanization occurring in the region of the Hugg-Thomas WMA (MdDNR 1989b, 1989c). Today, the Hugg-Thomas WMA provides hunting as well as an excellent environment for bird watchers and wildlife observers.

EVALUATION

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The purpose of this Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) form is to evaluate Hugg-Thomas WMA as a potential historic district and to assess each MdDNR-owned built resource constructed prior to 1960 applying the National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]) and the criteria for the Maryland Register of Historic Properties (Annotated Code of Maryland 83B, Title 5). In addition, the property was evaluated applying Criterion Consideration G for exceptional significance for properties less than fifty years of age since the management practices are less than fifty years old. The design and physical characteristics of the WMA were analyzed for their potential significance within the appropriate historical context of the Modern Period (1930-present) in the areas of conservation and architecture. No archeological sites were evaluated as part of this investigation.

Hugg-Thomas WMA was acquired by the State of Maryland in 1946 with the provision that the property become a game refuge, a wildlife demonstration area, and a work center for the farm game program in Howard and Carroll counties. From 1949 until the present, the property has been actively managed to provide food and wildlife habitat and to increase the forest acreage.

This property is one of numerous properties managed by the historic Department of Game and Inland Fish, the current Wildlife and Heritage Service, located throughout the State of Maryland. When the property was acquired in 1946, it was among 25,677 acres of state-owned lands managed by the Wildlife and Heritage Service. These lands included 5,217 acres of game refuges, including the Hugg-Thomas property. Forty-six acres were fisheries and 202 acres were game farms. Public shooting lands encompassed 20,210 acres. In 2002, the Wildlife and Heritage Service managed over 100,600 acres of state-owned land, of which 268 acres (i.e., the Hugg-Thomas property) were located in Howard County. An additional 9,516 acres of state parks also are located in Howard County (MdDNR 2002).

While conservation is an area of significance in Maryland history during the twentieth century, the properties under the stewardship of the Wildlife and Heritage Service generally are managed to minimize the effects of man on the landscape. Current management practices adopted by the Wildlife and Heritage Service generally are restricted to planting annual crops and perennial shrubs and to reforestation that enhance wildlife food and habitat. These practices generally leave minimal imprint on the overall landscape and maintain the property as a natural environment. The land management practices used at Hugg-Thomas WMA are similar since 1949. Evidence of earlier patterns of land use has been largely erased from the landscape.

Hugg-Thomas WMA does not meet one of the four definitions of historic landscape identified by the National Register of Historic Places as possessing qualities of significance necessary for listing (Birnbaum 1995). Hugg-Thomas WMA is primarily (251 acres) a hardwood and pine forest that, over the last fifty years, has been allowed to regrow naturally, with the effect of minimizing the imprint of historic occupation and agricultural patterns. Approximately 25 acres are maintained as cultivated wildlife plots. It is not an example of a historic designed landscape, a historic vernacular landscape, a historic site, or an ethnographic landscape (Birnbaum 1995). The property possesses no significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development. Research does not suggest that Hugg-Thomas WMA was associated with significant events or patterns in the history of conservation in Maryland during the twentieth century. William S. Thomas, the donor, did not actively manage the property for habitat preservation prior to its donation to the State of Maryland. The buildings constructed at the WMA do not possess significance under Criterion C for architecture. The buildings are functional in design and do not exhibit the qualities of architectural significance for their types, periods, or methods of construction; for high artistic value; or, of association with the work of a master (Criterion C). Thus, the landscape and the buildings at Hugg-Thomas WMA do not possess the qualities of significance under the National Register Criteria for Evaluation or under Criterion Consideration G for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as an historic district. No archeological sites were evaluated as part of this investigation.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 274

Acreage of historical setting 274

Quadrangle name Sykesville

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of the survey area comprise all property owned by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources within the legal boundaries of Hugg-Thomas WMA as of June 2003.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title A. Levinthal, S. Turner, K. Grandine

organization R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.

date 9/11/03

street and number 241 E. 4th Street, Suite 100

telephone 301-694-0428

city or town Frederick

state MD zip code 21701

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-790

Name Hugg-Thomas Wildlife Management Area

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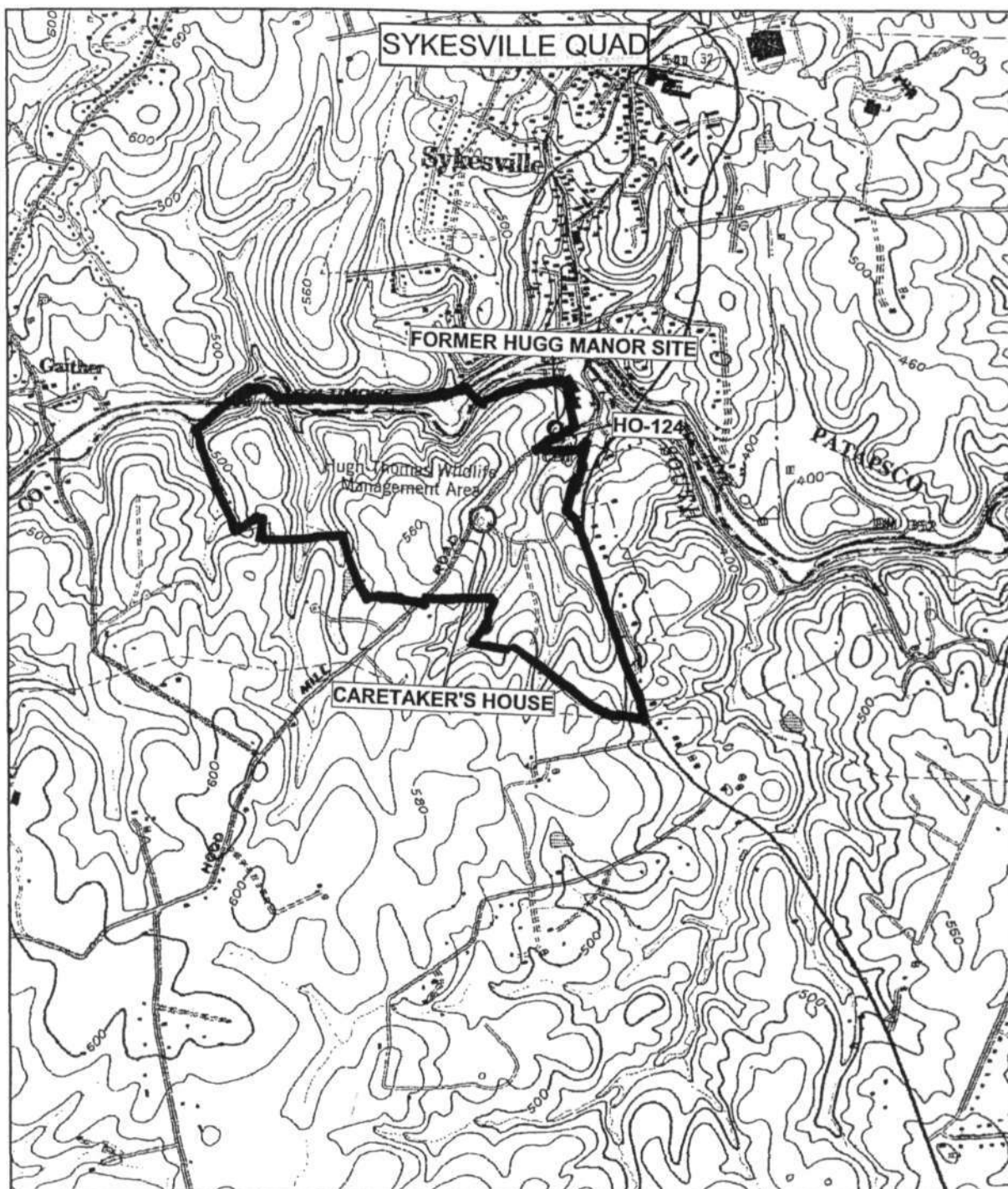
Thomas, William, S.

HO-790

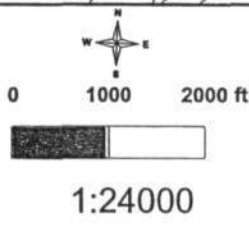
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-  SITES
-  BUILT RESOURCES
-  HUGG-THOMAS WMA



HUGG-THOMAS WMA HO-790 HOWARD AND CARROLL COUNTIES	
DATE: AUG 1, 2003	PREPARED BY: JPH
 R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc. 241 East Fourth Street, Suite 100 Frederick, MD 21701	

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-790

Hugg-Thomas Wildlife Management Area, Howard and Carroll Counties, Maryland
Continuation Sheet

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The following information is the same for each photograph:

1. MIHP # HO-790
2. Hugg-Thomas Wildlife Management Area
3. Howard and Carroll Counties, Maryland
4. R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.
5. June 2003
6. MD SHPO

Photo #

1. Farm pond with barn in background, view looking southeast.
2. Overall view of Hugg Manor House depressions, view looking north.
3. Windmill, view looking west.
4. Refuge Caretaker's House, view looking north.
5. Well Foundation, view looking east.
6. Springhouse foundation, view looking northeast.
7. Shop/pole barn, view looking southeast.
8. Shop/pole barn, view looking southwest.
9. Corncrib, view looking south.



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Hugg-Thomas WMA

Howard Co., MD

RCGA

June 2003 MD SHPO

Pond with barn looking SE

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Hugg-Thomas WMA

Howard Co. MD

RCGA

June 2003

MD SHPO

Hugg-Thomas Manor site, looking N

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Hugg-Thomas WMA
Howard Co. MD
RCG-A
June 2003
MD SHPO
windmill looking W
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HO-790

Hugg-Thomas WMA

Howard Co. MD

RCGA

June 2003

MD SHPo

Well foundations, looking east

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Hagg-Thomas WMA

Howard Co., MD

RCGA

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MD SHPO

Refuge Caretaker's Hse, looking N

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Hugg-Thomas WMA

Howard Co. MD

RCGA

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MD SHPo
springhouse foundation, looking NE

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Hugg-Thomas WMA

Howard Co. MD

RCGA

June 2003

MD SHPo

Shop/pole barn, looking SW

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H0-790
Hugg-Thomas WMA
Howard Co. , MD
RCG-A

June 2003

MD SH Po
shop/pole barn looking SW
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HO-790

Hugq-Thomas WMA

Howard Co., MD

REG-A

June 2003

MD SHPO

Corncrib, looking S

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